

# M'KINLEY'S BEAUTIFUL INAUGURATION GOWNS.

Costume for State Dinners, for State Calls, for Her First Appearance in the Senate, for Afternoons and Her Superb Dress for March 4.

The people of this country have been hearing for several months of American suits of clothes made for Major McKinley to wear on inauguration day. Now, however, Mrs. McKinley comes forward with French gowns, all made for the same occasion.

Upon these elaborate gowns Chicago dressmakers have been at work for several months. It is said they will cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000, being the most costly and elaborate dresses which the wife of any President of the United States has worn. It is stated that in the manufacture of these gowns for Mrs. McKinley "French ideas are predominant, but American theories have influenced the creations."

The gown to be worn at the inauguration is especially handsome. The material is what is known as cloth of silver. The groundwork is of white satin heavily woven with silver thread in a conventionalized floral design.

The train, which is plain, full and sweeping, measures two yards and a half in length. On the left side it is open over a panel of seed pearls embroidered on satin.

Beginning at the bottom is a dounce of Venetian point lace of a special and beautiful design, a half yard in width, which is cascaded narrow at the bottom, and gradually widens toward the top, until it is extended its full width over the hip and out to the back, where it is partly concealed under the full train. The right side of the skirt is also slashed open allway up, and under that also is an unbrodered petticoat of pearls.

The bodice is tight fitting and slightly pointed at front and back. The lower part is of silver cloth and the upper and back of pearls. The same lace that is used in the dounce is fastened at the waist line into a narrow point and is draped wider toward the shoulders in a V-shape. From there it spreads out over the sleeves and under a strap of silver cloth, two inches at the top and four inches at the bottom. This strip is also embroidered in pearls.

The collar is of pearl-embroidered satin. From it is a high Medici collar of the lace, wide out and full, to show the pattern. Long and fairly tight are the sleeves, and they are finished at the wrist with Vandye effects, embroidered at the edge, from which they fall from narrow lace of the same design as that on the skirt.

With this gorgeous gown Mrs. McKinley will wear a number of diamonds to fasten the lace, the handsomest being a diamond star and a sunburst of unusual brilliancy. She will also wear exquisite side combs.

The fan to be carried for this occasion is of the small empire shape, of lace, the same design as that on the gown, exquisitely embroidered in pearls.

The lining for this gown is of white satin, heavy and rich. Around the bottom inside are half a dozen ruffles to give a full effect particularly to the train.

A gown to be worn by Mrs. McKinley at state receptions is of blue and brocade. The background is of blue satin with a changeable effect. On it are raised flowers in velvet of two shades of old blue.

The design for this gown of the President's wife is "Princess," the waist being made with a plait, wide on the shoulders and narrow on the waist line. From there it extends in a double box plait into a full spreading train.

On the bodice point lace follows this plait, being fastened with two small cut steel buckles at the bottom of the waist and back. On the shoulder the lace is drawn through similar buckles.

Again in front the same effect in buckles is shown, and at the bottom of the gown in front is a large cut steel buckle. From this the lace falls in fan-shaped pieces to the skirt.

In front is a petticoat of blue satin veiled with white mousseline de soie. This is embroidered in cut steel and pearls in a special pattern. Edging this petticoat is a Venetian point lace dounce finished at the top with very narrow shirtings of mull.

The same lace is brought up each side of the petticoat to the waist line, where the full train falls over it. The front of the bodice is also of mousseline de soie, embroidered in cut steel and pearls in smaller design than that used on the skirt.

The collar is of cut steel and it partly holds up a separate collar of lace, which is brought through cut steel buckles at the back and fastened. The sleeves are of velvet, small, slashed at the top and lined with satin, and filled in with embroidered mousseline de soie.

Some of the point lace also appears in these slashes and is caught in with the same kind of cut steel buckles that are used on the other part of the bodice. This gown is lined with pale blue taffeta and finished with three pinked-out flounces of the same silk.

The gown to be worn by Mrs. McKinley at special state dinners is of violet and white brocade satin, the color used being soft, delicate and becoming to all complexions. The skirt is full and plain, with a long train, which gives height to the figure. At the right side is an opening extending to the waist. In this is a fan-shaped piece of violet velvet, of a slightly darker shade than the color of the gown.

This is made with three deep tucks at the bottom and at the top are three lace insertions with velvet between, finished with Rhinestone buttons. Around the bottom of the entire skirt are two narrow bands of violet velvet embroidered in a small design.

The bodice is of white liberty silk, soft and full. Over it is a bolero jacket of violet velvet, embroidered in several shades of violet and rhinestones. This is made short on the shoulder and slightly longer in front.

Around the waist is a folded sash of the brocade, wide under the arm and tapering narrow back in front. For the extreme finish of the waist line is the violet velvet, which is fastened together in the back in two full straps which extend partly up the back of the waist and partly down on the skirts.

The sleeves are of brocade, made with full-puffed top. They are lined with velvet. The collar is of velvet mousseline de soie, finished at the edge with a narrow velvet puff, and at the back is a bow knot of lace fastened with velvet straps.

Another gorgeous dinner gown is of white moire antique, made with absolutely plain skirt, long and full. The waist is plain and draped in Grecian effect across the front. Arrow bands of pearl embroidery fasten the drapery high under the arms and make point front and back. Duchesse lace



MRS. M'KINLEY'S CLOTH OF SILVER INAUGURATION GOWN.

forms a yoke effect in front and is drawn back toward the arm size, where it falls in fan-shaped ends. The sleeves are tight, with short full puffs on top, and finished at the wrists with an embroidery of pearls and narrow lace edge.

One of the handsomest, but also one of the most severely plain dresses in Mrs.

McKinley's wardrobe is a pale blue brocade satin, heavy and rich in design, and of a beautiful tone of color. The skirt is made perfectly plain and full.

The back of the waist is plain, and in front the silk is drawn across it from right to left, and is fastened with four beautiful blue and green enamelled buttons.

Facings of the silk where it shows slightly on the waist are of dark blue taffeta silk, and the sleeves, which are plain almost of the top, show the same colored silk in the deep heading with which they are finished.

An elaborate reception gown is a black brocade moire antique. The skirt has a short train and is perfectly plain, lined with pale blue taffeta.

The bodice is of moire, with bolero effect in front and a yoke in the back of jet embroidered by hand on black net. A full front, embroidered with jet and studded with turquoise is caught at the waist line with a girdele of embroidered jet. The bolero jacket is edged with a delicate thread lace, five inches in width, which is draped artistically over the sleeves and stops high up on the bust and front.

The sleeves are of moire, embroidered at the wrist in jet, and from them is a smaller undersleeve of net embroidered jet and turquoise. The collar is of embroidered jet with a thread lace, filled in at the back. The only color used on this costume is a pale blue, and with it Mrs. McKinley will wear some beautiful ornaments of turquoise and diamonds.

The gown which Mrs. McKinley expects to wear on her first appearance in the Senate is a dark blue velvet, in what is known as royal blue. It is lined with pale blue brocade silk, finished with several little ruffles.

The skirt is full and perfectly plain and touches the floor in the back. The bodice is of velvet, made over a full white satin front, embroidered in crosswise bands in two shades of blue, pale violet, and blue pinks. These bands are an inch in width and two inches between and the effect is almost Oriental.

The shape of this bodice is peculiar. The velvet is cut out to form points over the bust and two inches below the waist line, and is sharply slashed up under the arm, where the embroidered satin can show.

In the back is a wide box plait, brought sharply into the waist line and plaited full out over the back of the skirt about two inches in depth. This is lined with white embroidered satin to match the front.

The collar is of velvet, with the idea of the full box plait, standing high in the back and lined with the white embroidered satin. The sleeves are perfectly plain, with a full puff at the top. With this costume Mrs. McKinley has a bonnet of blue velvet and a crown of white net, embroidered in gold. At one side is a knot of white lace and a black aligrette.

Mr. McKinley has two most interesting relatives living in New York. They are not wealthy. Nor are they poor. Display of dress has never found too much favor with them. Yet their inaugural gowns will cost nearly \$5,000.

The Sunday Journal exclusively prints to-day something of the sister-in-law and niece of the President-elect Mrs. Abner McKinley and Miss Mabel McKinley.

Here is a description of Mrs. Abner McKinley's inaugural ball dress, given to the Journal reporter, as an artist sketched it, by Miss J. Stewart, of No. 158 West Twenty-third street, who designed and made it. The Journal artist was kindly permitted to make the accompanying sketches in her parlors.

It is of pearl gray, blue brocade satin. The skirt is Victoria shaped, with plaits on each side, full ripple down the back and a demit-train. It was imported from Paris and was the only piece of its kind manufactured. It reflects innumerable silvery sprays beneath the electric light. It is heavily embossed with flowers of the leafy pattern.

The bodice is cut decollete half surplice, caught at one side with a butterfly of pearls and diamonds. It is trimmed with duchesse lace, draped across the entire back and drawn over the right shoulder, where it is caught at the point of surplice with another butterfly of pearls and diamonds.

The sleeves are elbow length, shirred and finished with butterflies of pearls and diamonds. The gown is set off with a girdele of pearls.

Mrs. McKinley will wear a band of diamonds interspersed with pearls four inches wide, fitting closely around her neck. In her hair she will wear a bandeau of pearls caught up with blue aligrette. Her hose will be of pale blue and her shoes of blue satin. She will wear a handsome petticoat trimmed with duchesse lace.

Her state reception gown, which she will wear at the reception immediately after the inauguration ceremonies are concluded, is of black velvet. The skirt will be full, but perfectly plain, with a short, box-like, jaunty jacket, caught up with heavy black silk frogs. It will be lined with apple blossom and green brocade satin.

The waist to be worn with this suit is of white accordion-plaited chiffon, with a jabot of white chiffon, falling down the front. A little Bolero jacket of Russian red velvet, studded with cut jet, sets off the front and falls down in a square piece at the back. It is lined with white satin. The sleeves are made of shirred chiffon, with accordion plait falling over the shoulder. The waist is finished with white satin with a butterfly bow on the front and back.

Miss Mabel McKinley is a beautiful young woman of eighteen. She will make her debut at the inaugural ball, and she will be its belle.

Her ball gown is a heavy brocade silk, of the lilacs-of-the-valley design. The skirt is full and plain, like that of her mother. There is no train to it. The bodice is cut decollete a little around the waist. It is trimmed with chiffon and caught up here and there with lilacs of the valley. The sleeve is four inches long, of chiffon and caught up with flowers. A belt of white satin ribbon worn around the waist is finished at the right side with a pointed French bow.

Miss Mabel will carry in her hand a large bunch of lilacs of the valley. She will wear no jewels.

The gown to be worn at the inaugural reception at noon on March 4 by Miss McKinley is of check silk with blending colors of heliotrope and green, prettily shaded. The little French waist accompanying it looks at the back. The front is loose and is shirred on to a yoke of white applique. The back and sleeves are similarly shirred, all going into the applique yoke.

The skirt is full and without trimming. It is of walking length, finished at the waist with a belt of white satin fastened at the right with a pointed bow.

The inauguration gown alone cost nearly \$2,000, and is a triumph of the dressmaker's art, supplemented by the use of gorgeous materials and lace and hand-worked embroidery. Of the other costumes none has fallen below \$500. The aggregate sum will reach, it is said, \$10,000.

Mrs. McKinley's favorite color is blue, as is shown by the number of blue gowns in her wardrobe, and it is a color which she has worn from her girlhood. A green cloth costume was one suggested by Mr. McKinley, and one which, next to the inauguration gown, he took a special interest in.

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